

Good Family Life.....

the democratic way

A country home, be it ever so plain, with a father and mother of sense and gentle culture, is nature's university, and is more richly endowed for the training of youth than Yale or Harvard.

—Dr. Seaman A. Knapp.



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By DOSCA HALE

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IN THE PICTURES

Mr. and Mrs. Don A. Lewis, Troy, Don A., Jr., and Lazette of Midlothian, Ellis County, gather around the table for a conference.

Resting on the porch of their home are Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Leppin and their three children, Wilburn, Doris, and Harold, of Colorado County.

Among the Chinese checker enthusiasts are Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Wakefield and sons, John and Joe, of Ellis County.

Lawrence and Robert Glenn of Lavaca County play an indoor game.

Improvement of their frame garden interests Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Parsons, Bandera County, and their daughters, Ruth and Anne.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Schaefer, Mary Lou, Lawrence and Robert, of Caldwell County, rest and play on the front steps of their home.

Visiting by the fireplace are Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Jones of Zephyr, Brown County, with their children, Malcolm and Dorothy.

Young people in many American homes have faith and confidence in their parents because the parents have helped them to find these qualities within themselves.



They are not afraid to face the realities of life.

They think things through. They decide what to do and then do it.

If one plan doesn't work they make another one and try again.

There are family goals. There are long-time goals and immediate goals. Each member has individual goals. Together, all members of the family like to discuss the progress each is making and bring new ideas each has gained. Old plans and ideas are changed and reshaped to meet present conditions.

The adults give wise guidance. The young people gladly accept responsibility.



After a day of hard work many families like to gather around the fireplace, at the supper table, or on the front porch to rest and discuss the happenings of the day.



Even the youngest one has suggestions to offer. Expressing an opinion makes each feel again how important he is in his family group.

Each feels that he belongs and is needed by others in the group. This feeling puts a new zest and a new gladness into living.

The emotional development in this kind of family living makes these families and their neighborhoods more secure.

In homes like these, the parents accept their responsibility for character building.

To all families come times when there are difficulties and hard places, but if all, by common consent, share in the adjustments, things usually come along all right. The hard things seem easier, because all stand together.



Each is interested in the achievements of the other. The family members are good friends.

They do nice things for each other.

They are always considerate of the wishes and feelings of others.

In the lean years, all give up some of the things they planned to buy. Each works a little harder.

Neighbors are invited over. Reading aloud, group singing, story telling, and games are forms of recreation enjoyed by these families and their neighbors.

No family member feels cheated because it's "all for each and each for all."



Too few families know and practice the essentials to good physical health. Still fewer know and practice the essentials to good mental health. Those who do experience a satisfaction and a feeling of well-being that makes it much easier for them to live a full, useful life.



Some know the difference between a good diet and a fair diet.

They know the signs of good health.

They all share the work and the responsibility of producing and storing their food supply.

Their methods of food preparation are good.

The children learn good food habits by example. They plan and provide simple, becoming clothes.

The house is arranged and furnished for the comfort and well-being of all who live there.

Adults are "grown-up" emotionally as well as physically and mentally.

Some families are thinking not only of the well-being of their immediate families but of the welfare of families that will come after them—of their great grandchildren.



They study and discuss with family, neighbors, and specialists, the best use of their land.

Each has an increasing love and appreciation for the land.

They take time to look up at the stars.

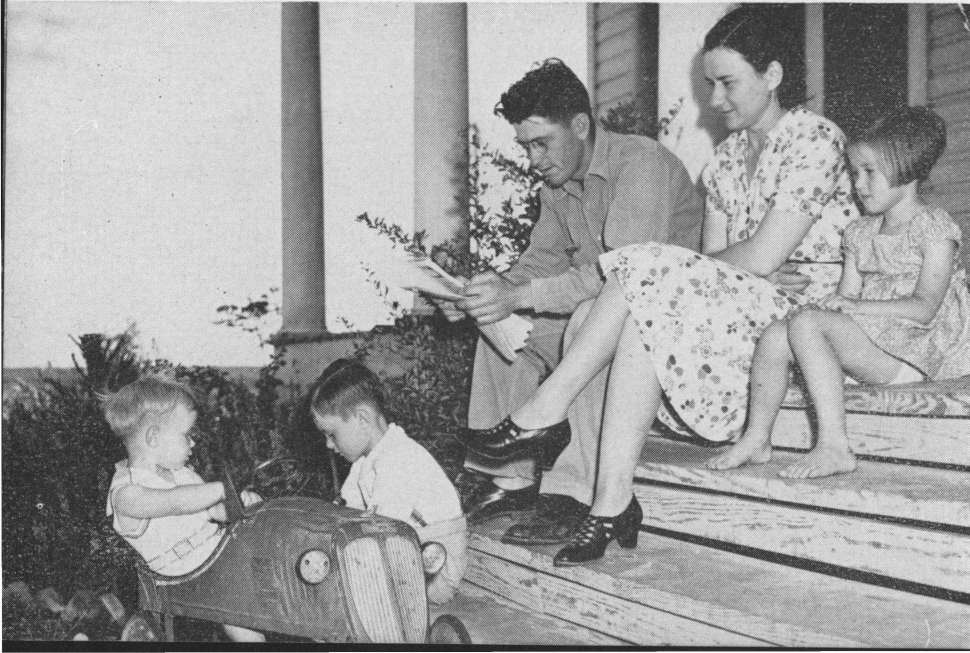
They take time to learn to appreciate the order, the beauty, and the mystery of the natural world.

They take time to enjoy the birds, the wild flowers, and the other interesting things on their farms.

Those who come their way leave with an increased appreciation for the dignity of hard work, and a deeper understanding of the joy that can come from work well done.



Homes are fine places in which to experiment and learn new things. Each person has a chance to express individual interests and ideas.



The children learn to handle money. The smallest members help to build places for their own things.

They have places for collections. Each learns about new tools and equipment.

There is an opportunity for hospitality.

Parents take time to enjoy the experiences of every day living with their children. They read and discuss good literature. They know that a good book or magazine can be bought for the price of a cold drink. They provide at little cost an opportunity to hear and enjoy good music.

There are families where each individual is encouraged to make his own decisions and to develop his own talents and individuality.



They place a high value on human personality.

Friendships are encouraged.

Individual opinions are expressed.

There is a wise use of praise.

The family establishes the standards it values and can afford.

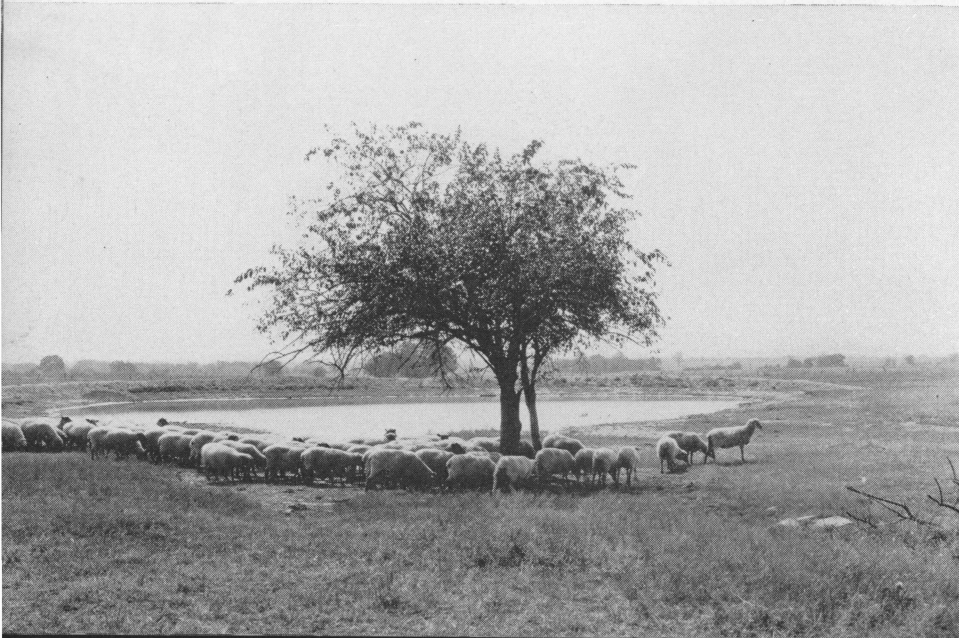
There is no striving to keep up with the "Smiths."

Youth and age enjoy and appreciate each other.

These families are good neighbors.



America is striving to work out a democratic way of life. In this work each individual must have a part and each family must have a larger part.



If the families follow the democratic way the community will be democratic, the state will be democratic, and the nation will be democratic.

The way in which each individual does his share and the completeness with which each family meets the challenge will determine the fate of America.

The American way of life must be the democratic way of life.

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The power which transformed the humble fishermen of Galilee into mighty apostles of truth is ever present and can be used as effectively today in any good cause as when the Son of God turned His footsteps from Judea's capital and spoke to the way-side children of poverty.

—Dr. Seaman A. Knapp